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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/045,664

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Hiroki Takaoka

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07/15/2004

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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EXAMINER

SUAREZ, FELIX E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2857

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/045,664

Applicant(s)

TAKAOKA ET AL.

Examiner

Felix E Suarez

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 07 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 13 and 29-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 29-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barts et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0082893) in view of Kirmuss (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0080878).

With respect to claim 29, 34, 37 and 40, Barts et al. (hereafter Barts) teaches a vehicle information providing apparatus (or method or a computer program) comprising:

an authentication function for authenticating access from a user terminal by a key assigned to a purchaser of a vehicle (see page 18, paragraphs [0320]-[0322]).

Barts does not teach an image providing function for providing the user terminal with an image data representing the vehicle which is under manufacturing, if the authentication by said authentication function succeeds,

wherein the image data allow the user to check on the progress of manufacturing the vehicle.

But Kirmuss teaches in an Event-Based Vehicle Image Capture that a video recorder is configured to accept data (e.g., officer badge number, car number, Global Positioning System (GPS) data, real-time clock data or other textual data) from the general-purpose computer and to synchronize (where necessary) and record that data with the recorded video signal(s). The recording of such additional data, together with the video signal, often can provide a more complete picture of a sequence of events, on a second-by-second basis, upon later review of the recorded video. Digital signals from the general-purpose computer (e.g., when the officer enters an emergency code) also can be used to trigger the beginning of the video recording mode (see Kirmuss; page 6 paragraph [0097]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Barts to include an Event-Based Vehicle Image Capture as taught by Kirmuss, because the Event-Based Vehicle Image Capture of Kirmuss allows to capture, locate and monitor a vehicle image of the scene by a selected criteria.

With respect to claims 30, 35, 38 and 41, Barts in combination with Kirmuss teaches all the features of the claimed invention and Barts further teaches that the image providing function provides the user terminal of a video or

still image data representing the vehicle in a backbone component assembly process, painting process, or test process (see Barts; pages 11, 12; paragraphs [0180]-[0181]).

With respect to claims 31, 36, 39 and 42, Barts in combination with Kirmuss teaches all the features of the claimed invention and Barts further teaches comprising a storage device for storing the image data representing the vehicle in association with processes of manufacturing,

wherein if the authentication function receives the access specifying the process of manufacturing and the authentication of the access succeeds, the image providing function reads out the image data from the storage device based on the received process of manufacturing (see Barts; page 13 paragraph [0194]).

With respect to claim 32, Barts teaches a vehicle information providing apparatus comprising:

an authentication function for authenticating access from a user terminal by a key assigned to a purchaser of a vehicle (see page 18 paragraph [0320]).

Barts does not teach an image providing function for informing the user terminal of a scheduled manufacturing time and for providing a real-time image data representing the vehicle that is being manufactured if the authentication by said authentication function succeeds in the scheduled manufacturing time.

But Kirmuss teaches in an Event-Based Vehicle Image Capture that a video recorder is configured to accept data (e.g., officer badge number, car number, Global Positioning System (GPS) data, real-time clock data or other textual data) from the general-purpose computer and to synchronize (where necessary) and record that data with the recorded video signal(s). The recording of such additional data, together with the video signal, often can provide a more complete picture of a sequence of events, on a second-by-second basis, upon later review of the recorded video. Digital signals from the general-purpose computer (e.g., when the officer enters an emergency code) also can be used to trigger the beginning of the video recording mode (see Kirmuss; page 6 paragraph [0097]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Barts to include an Event-Based Vehicle Image Capture as taught by Kirmuss, because the Event-Based Vehicle Image Capture of Kirmuss allows to capture an image for a vehicle in a real-time on a second-by-second basis time.

With respect to claim 33, Barts teaches a vehicle information providing apparatus comprising:

an information providing function for providing the user terminal with a schedule information of when the user terminal is allowed to remotely control a manufacturing machine for a vehicle (see page 18 paragraph [0320]);

a receiving function for receiving an instruction to control the manufacturing machine from the user terminal (see page 18 paragraph [0321]);

a transmission function for transmitting the instruction to the manufacturing machine (see page 18, paragraphs [0321]-[0322]).

Barts does not teach an image providing function for providing the user terminal with an image data representing the vehicle, which is under manufacturing by the manufacturing machine based on the instruction.

But Kirmuss teaches in an Event-Based Vehicle Image Capture that a video recorder is configured to accept data (e.g., officer badge number, car number, Global Positioning System (GPS) data, real-time clock data or other textual data) from the general-purpose computer and to synchronize (where necessary) and record that data with the recorded video signal(s). The recording of such additional data, together with the video signal, often can provide a more complete picture of a sequence of events, on a second-by-second basis, upon later review of the recorded video. Digital signals from the general-purpose computer (e.g., when the officer enters an emergency code) also can be used to trigger the beginning of the video recording mode (see Kirmuss; page 6 paragraph [0097]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Barts to include an Event-Based Vehicle Image Capture as taught by Kirmuss, because the Event-Based Vehicle Image

Capture of Kirmuss allows to capture and transmit a vehicle image of the scene by a selected criteria.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 12 and 13 are allowable.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 12 and 13 are allowable because the prior art, particularly Barts et al. [U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0082893] fails to teach or suggest a vehicle information providing apparatus comprising:

a information acquisition function, wherein said information acquisition function composites a name of a purchaser of the specific vehicle to the photographed image.

Conclusion

Prior Art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Atsmon et al. [U.S. Patent No 6,607,136] describes a system which allows users to easily interact with a merchant.

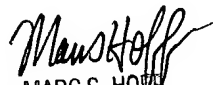
Ginter et al. [U.S. Patent No 6,363,488] describes a communication including electronic purchasing.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix Suarez, whose telephone number is (571) 272-2223. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

June 30, 2004

F.S.


MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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